

## Message Text

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17

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-10 IO-03 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-10 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-14 USIA-04 SR-02 ORM-01 SAM-01 SAJ-01 NIC-01 DRC-01

/077 W

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R 082138Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0610

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

RUESBA AMEMBASSY BUENOSAIRES 3390

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 06146

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, PFOR, US

SUBJ: CHILEAN PROPAGANDA OFFENSIVE: RELEASE OF KENNEDY"

PINOCHET CORRESPONDENCE

1. SUMMARY. SANTIAGO PRESS OCT 5 FEATURED TEXTS OF LETTERS EXCHANGED BETWEEN SENATOR EDWARD KENNEDY AND CHIEF OF STATE GENERAL PINOCHET IN MAY 1974. SENATOR REPORTED CONCLUSIONS RESULTING FROM TRIP TO CHILE OF SUBCOMMITTEE ON REFUGEES MISSION, AND MADE SEVEN "SUGGESTIONS" FOR GOC HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIONS. PINOCHET EMPHATICALLY REJECTED LETTER AS AN EXAMPLE OF "IMPERIALISTIC MENTALITY." PUBLICATION CAME DURING HARD LINE GOC DIPLOMATIC/PROPAGANDA OFFENSIVE INVOLVING "CHALLENGE" TO USSR AND CUBA ON DETAINEES AND INSTANT REPLIES TO ATTACKS IN UNGA. END SUMMARY.

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2. SENATE MISSION (DUNGAN, PLANK, SCHNEIDER) LAST SPRING

MADE CRITICAL OBSERVATIONS IN NUMBER OF HUMAN RIGHTS AREAS; IN HIS MAY 14 LETTER TO PINOCHET, SENATOR'S SUGGESTIONS INCLUDED: END OF STATE OF WAR, PUNISHMENT OF TORTURERS, IMMEDIATE LIBERTY, TRIAL, OR PERMISSION TO LEAVE COUNTRY FOR PERSONS DETAINED MORE THAN FIVE MONTHS, PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION ON DETAINEES, ACCESS TO LAWYERS AND PUBLIC TRIALS, AND PROGRESS TOWARD FREE PRESS AND OTHER DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS. SENATOR SAID "CONCRETE PROOFS" OF IMPROVEMENTS "ARE ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL," WITHOUT WHICH HE COULD NOT SUPPORT BILATERAL COOPERATION AGREEMENTS.

3. IN REPLY OF MAY 25, PINOCHET SAID NATURE OF SENATOR'S LETTER MIGHT HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT HAD HE ACCEPTED FORMER'S INVITATION TO VISIT CHILE HIMSELF, INSTEAD OF WHICH HE HAD PREFERRED TO VISIT USSR. PINOCHET DID NOT ADDRESS POINTS OF CRITICISM, SINCE TO DO SO WOULD OFFEND "CHILE'S DIGNITY." HE REFUSED TO ACCEPT "SUGGESTIONS" FROM FOREIGN POLITICIAN AND SAID HE WOULD NOT "TOLERATE" THEM EVEN IF PRESENTED AS CONDITION FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION. PINOCHET CONCLUDED HE MUST "PEREMPTORILY REJECT" LETTER IN NAME OF GOC AND OF "SOVEREIGN DIGNITY" OF PEOPLE: "BELIEVE ME, IN READING THE LETTER I UNDERSTOOD CLEARLY WHAT THOSE IN MY COUNTRY MEANT WHEN THEY ALWAYS CRITICIZED 'IMPERIALISM.' YOUR LETTER IS CLEAREST EXAMPLE OF THAT IMPERIALISTIC MENTALITY WHICH CHILE REJECTS NO MATTER WHAT ITS ORIGIN, AND WHICH I PERSONALLY THOUGHT HAD DISAPPEARED FROM ALL THE PUBLIC SECTORS OF YOUR NOBLE COUNTRY."

4. EMBASSY IS POUCHING COPY OF LETTERS TO ARA/BC.

5. AS NOTED IN USIS CURRENT REACTION REPORTING, PUBLICATION RECEIVED WIDE COMMENT. BOTH PRESS AND SOME RADIOS APPLAUD PINOCHET LINE DEFENDING DIGNITY AND SOVEREIGNTY OF CHILE AGAINST FOREIGN INTERVENTION.

6. COMMENT: SENATOR KENNEDY IS WIDELY ABUSED BY CHILEAN MEDIA AND APPEARS GENUINELY UNPOPULAR AMONG JUNTA SUPPORTERS AND MANY OTHERS. HE IS A CONVENIENT TARGET FOR VENTING OF FRUSTRATION OVER TREATMENT OF CHILE BY OUTSIDE WORLD, WHICH IS DEEPLY RESENTED AND IN LARGE PART NOT UNDERSTOOD HERE.

7. WE CAN ONLY SPECULATE AS TO WHY AN EXCHANGE OF LETTERS WHICH  
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TOOK PLACE IN MAY WAS RELEASED BY GOC IN OCTOBER. IMMEDIATE CAUSE MAY BE EXASPERATION IN GOC CIRCLES OVER SEN. KENNEDY'S EFFORT TO INCLUDE IN SENATE VERSION OF FOREIGN AID CONTINUING RESOLUTION LANGUAGE PROHIBITING ASSISTANCE TO CHILE. IN ANY CASE, PUBLICATION STRIKES RESPONSIVE CHORD LOCALLY. SENATOR'S LETTER IS VIEWED AS A PRESUMPTUOUS AFFRONT TO CHILEAN SENSITIVITIES, AND PINOCHET'S RESPONSE AS FORTHRIGHT REASSERTION OF CHILEAN NATIONAL DIGNITY. NOTABLE THAT PINOCHET SAW FIT TO RAISE POINT OF

"IMPERIALISM"; THOUGH CURRENTLY MUTED, THIS IS A CONSTANT, ALTHOUGH NOT NORMALLY DOMINANT ELEMENT IN FUNDAMENTAL CHILEAN VIEW OF US.

8. PINOCHET REPLY TO KENNEDY ALSO REFLECTS THE HARDER LINE TAKEN IN RECENT GOC RESPONSES TO ATTACKS FROM ABROAD. RATHER THAN REACT PASSIVELY TO CRITICISM, GOC IS NOW MORE INCLINED TO DO PROPAGANDA BATTLE WITH THE ENEMY. NEW CAMPAIGN IS BUILT AROUND PINOCHET'S SEPT 11 "CHALLENGE" TO USSR AND CUBA TO RELEASE POLITICAL DETAINEES. ACTUAL RELEASE OF CHILEAN DETAINEES IS GOING FORWARD QUITE SLOWLY, AS GOC DECIDES WHOM IT IS SAFE TO LET OUT IN LIGHT OF EXTREMIST ACTIVITY, AND TRIES TO ARRANGE RECEPTION OF REFUGEES ABROAD. IN MEANTIME SOVIET AND CUBAN "SILENCE" ON CHALLENGE IS EXPLOITED AS OCCASION OFFERS.

9. EMBASSY HAS BEEN STRUCK BY TOUGH ATTITUDE BEING TAKEN IN UNGA BY CONSERVATIVE POLITICIANS WHO FORM PART OF CHILEAN DELEGATION. THEY ARE USED TO POLEMICS WITH CHILEAN COMMUNISTS, AND THEIR STATEMENTS, AS REFLECTED IN USUN REPORTING AND LOCAL PRESS, SHOW SAME ZEST FOR CONFRONTATION. SANTIAGO PRESS ALSO REPORTED MEETING BETWEEN DEL MEMBERS AND CONGRESSMAN MICHAEL HARRINGTON, WHICH SEEMED TO BE ON SAME LINE.

10. GOC HAS CONVOKED MEETING IN SANTIAGO THIS WEEK OF CHILEAN AMBASSADORS TO LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES TO GIVE POLICY DIRECTION AND COORDINATE PROPAGANDA ACTION OF EMBASSIES. FORETASTE MAY BE HARD-HITTING STATEMENT OF CHILEAN EMBASSY IN BRAZIL, PUBLISHED IN SANTIAGO "EL MERCURIO" OCT 6, REJECTING CAMPAIGN OF "PUBLICITY ORGANIZATION OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNISM" THAT CHARGES GOC WITH COMPLICITY IN SEPT 30 ASSASSINATION OF GENERAL PRATS IN BUENOS AIRES. STATEMENT NOTED RAPID EXPLOITATION OF PRATS' DEATH AND CAMPAIGN'S "VERY EFFECTIVE SYNCHRONIZATION" -- JUDGMENT AMPLY JUSTIFIED BY RADIO MOSCOW BROADCASTS AS CONFIDENTIAL

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11. GOC CAMPAIGN THEMES OF NATIONALISM AND ANTI-MARXISM WILL HAVE CERTAIN VALUE DOMESTICALLY, BUT HARD, STRAIGHT ANTI-MARXIST RHETORIC WILL HAVE LIMITED PERSUASIVENESS ABROAD. POPPER

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, CI, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005